

ARKANSAS MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS: THE BASICS

Deciding the Type and Extent of Compensation You May Be Entitled to in a Motorcycle Accident Takes Experience and Knowledge of the Law Regarding Personal Injury



Wesley A. Cottrell



While riding motorcycles is certainly an exhilarating hobby for some, it is also inherently dangerous. It goes without saying that motorcyclists are extremely exposed to injury, without the protections that a car will provide. Helmets and other protective gear can decrease injury, but the risk of serious and often fatal injury from a motorcycle accident is often much higher than other types of accidents.

Motorcycle accident injuries are often catastrophic

Due to the lack of safety features typically found in passenger vehicles, such as seatbelts, airbags, and a metal frame, motorcyclists frequently suffer more extensive injuries. These injuries can include traumatic brain injuries, head injuries, spinal cord injuries and paralysis, bone fractures, burns, "road rash," and even death. Catastrophic injuries often result in permanent disability and substantial medical expenses, which have a substantial impact on the lives of victims and their families.

Why are motorcycles different?



The primary difference between motorcycles and cars, with regard to injuries from accidents, is the lack of a real protective barrier between a motorcyclist and the road or another vehicle. Due to the general lack of safety features, like those found in cars, the injuries suffered in accidents are more

serious, or even fatal.

Also, the fact that many other motorists have difficulty anticipating or seeing a motorcycle, leaves motorcyclists more likely to be involved in an accident and suffer serious injury. Motorcyclists must always maintain an awareness of their surroundings, because they are much smaller than passenger vehicles and may be more difficult for other drivers to see.

How to Avoid Motorcycle Accidents

There are a few steps motorcyclists can take to reduce the risk of being involved in an accident while on the road. First, you must take good care of your motorcycle and keep up with its maintenance. The safer and better maintained

your motorcycle is, the less likely your own vehicle will be the cause of an accident. You must always wear protective clothing and equipment. Since motorcycles have no outer protection for the rider, things like goggles, boots, and gloves can go a long way toward shielding your skin and body in a crash. No question – a helmet is a must.

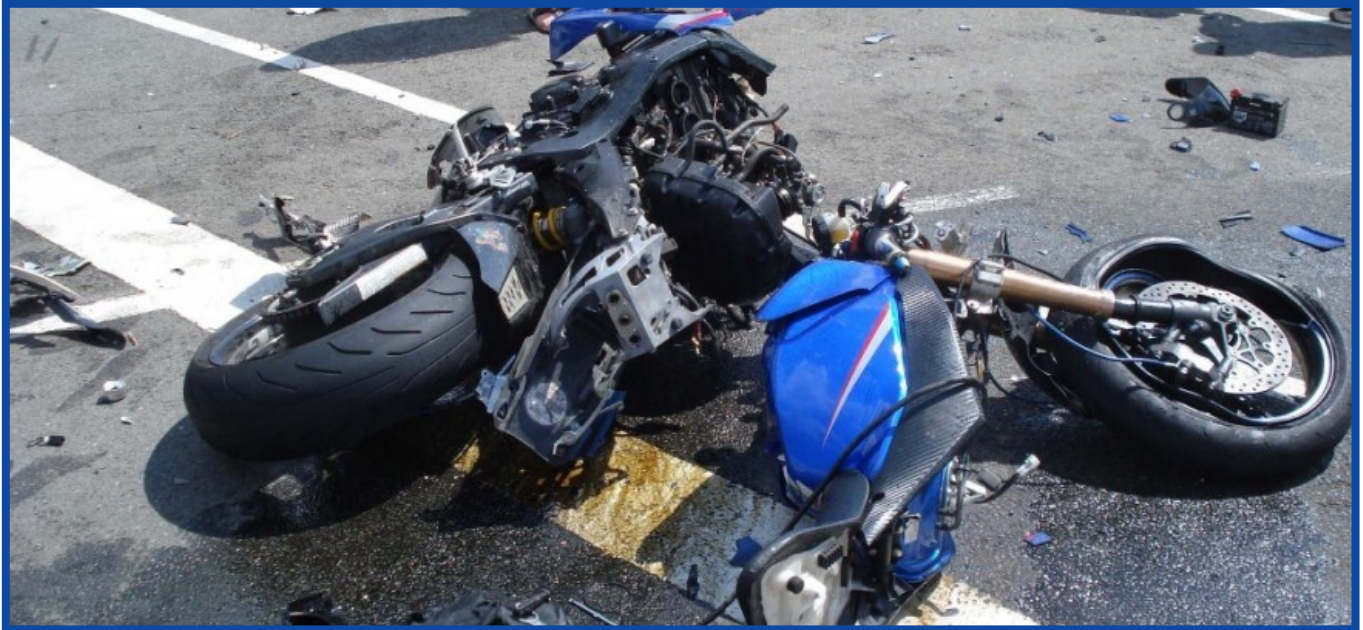


It is important as a motorcyclist to do what you can to be seen and heard by other motorists. Using your lights to make yourself more visible, is one option. Also, using your horn to signal danger and to aid others in noticing you are there.

Determining Appropriate Compensation

Determining the suitable value of a claim for personal injury, after a motorcycle accident, can be a challenge. The determination requires evaluating the nature and extent of the injuries, any economic losses that are recoverable, and narrowing down the liability issues that may exist. As with other catastrophic injuries, damages may be recovered for current and future lost wages, permanent disability, current and future medical expenses, the expenses for necessary rehabilitation, and compensation for pain, suffering and mental

anguish. Deciding the type and extent of compensation you may be entitled to, takes experience and knowledge of the law regarding personal injury. Unfortunately, insurance companies usually have significant experience in evaluating personal injury claims and will do what they can to obtain the lowest settlement possible.



Should I settle or should I sue?

If you have or a loved one has been injured in a motorcycle accident, the first decision to be made is whether to settle or go to court. Many people think that, after they have been involved in a motorcycle accident, it is not necessary to hire an attorney because there is insurance coverage. Although most insurance companies are willing to settle with victims, they typically offer very little compensation.

You may believe that your insurance company is required to look out for you. But, most of the time, the insurance company's interests are not the same as yours. Your goal, after an accident, is to attain as much compensation for your injuries and losses as you possibly can. Yet, the primary goal of your insurance company is to pay out as little as possible, in order to make more profit. If you have questions regarding motorcycle accidents, or any other personal injury concerns, call the [Cottrell Law Office](#) at (800) 364-8305.

About the Author



Wesley A. Cottrell

Wesley A. Cottrell has been successfully practicing law for over 29 years. Born in Springdale, Arkansas and raised in Baxter Springs, Kansas, Wes is licensed to practice law in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Wes earned his B.A. from Pittsburg State University in 1981 and his J.D. from the Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kansas in 1985. He was admitted to practice law in Kansas in 1986, in Missouri in 1987, in Arkansas in 1989, and Oklahoma in 1993.

He is licensed to practice law in the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, eastern Arkansas, western Arkansas, and western Missouri. He was Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Crawford County, Kansas from 1987-1989.

Wes lives in Rogers, Arkansas with his wife, Shelly, and their two daughters, Kennedy and Gabby. He is active in his community, and is regularly asked to teach courses to other attorney on personal injury and workers' compensation litigation.

Memberships and Associations:

National Organization of Social Security Representatives
Benton County Bar Association
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Kansas Bar Association
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Rogers Office
117 South 2nd St
Rogers, AR 72756
Phone: (800) 364-8305
Secondary phone: (479) 631-6464

Joplin Office
2001 Empire Ave
Joplin, MO 64804
Phone: (800) 364-8305
Secondary phone: (417) 782-4004